

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A mouse device for providing a computer input for a display, comprising:

a first input element to generate position signals of a cursor on the display in response to movement of the first input element;

at least one selection element configured to enable selection of at least one item on the display; and

a second input element to generate signals providing alphanumeric input capability.

2. The mouse device of claim 1, wherein the second input element includes a keypad.

3. The mouse device of claim 2, wherein the keypad includes special character keys often used in an interactive graphical environment.

4. The mouse device of claim 3, wherein the special character keys includes a period, a hyphen, and colon.

5. The mouse device of claim 2, wherein the keypad includes an Enter key.

6. The mouse device of claim 2, wherein the keypad includes a Delete key.

7. The mouse device of claim 2, wherein the keypad includes a Space key.

8. The mouse device of claim 2, further comprising:
at least one position button operatively configured to enable selection of a particular character from a plurality of characters assigned to each key in the keypad.

9. The mouse device of claim 2, further comprising:
a scroll wheel configured to scroll through a plurality of characters assigned to each key in the keypad, such that selection of a particular character from the plurality of characters can be made quicker.

10. The mouse device of claim 1, wherein the second input element includes at least one alphanumeric function button.

11. The mouse device of claim 10, wherein said at least one alphanumeric function button includes a Space button.

12. The mouse device of claim 1, further comprising:
a display configured to display alphanumeric input provided by the second input element.

13. The mouse device of claim 12, further comprising:
a recall button operating to recall the last entered alphanumeric input on the display.

14. The mouse device of claim 1, wherein the second input element further includes arrow buttons configured to move the cursor on a fixed range.

15. The mouse device of claim 14, wherein the arrow buttons include an up/down arrow button that moves the cursor up or down.

16. The mouse device of claim 14, wherein the arrow buttons include a left/right arrow button that moves the cursor left or right.

17. A compact keypad mouse, comprising:
a housing having a top, a bottom, and sides;
a transducer located on the bottom of the housing, the transducer configured to provide a lateral position of the mouse, which is used to position a graphical symbol on a display;
at least one selection button; and
a keypad located on the top of the housing, the keypad enabling input of alphanumeric characters at a location where the cursor is positioned by movement of the mouse and set by said at least one selection button.

18. The mouse of claim 17, wherein the movement of the mouse and the input of alphanumeric characters using the keypad is done with a same hand of a user.

19. The mouse of claim 17, further comprising:
at least one position button operatively configured to enable selection of a particular character from a plurality of characters assigned to each key in the keypad.

20. The mouse of claim 17, wherein the keypad includes arrow buttons disposed on the sides of the housing, the arrow buttons configured to move the cursor up, down, left, or right.